

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the amendments set forth above and the below remarks.

Applicant submits this amendment as part of a RCE application in response to the final Office Action mailed July 6, 2004.

Claims 1-66 are pending in the application: claims 24, 25, 31, 35, 36, 48, 49, and 53 are objected to and indicated to contain patentable subject matter; claims 1-10, 14-23, 26-30, 32, 33, 37-43, 45-47, 50-52 and 54-61 are rejected; and claims 11-13, 34, 44, and 62-66 have been canceled without prejudice due to a restriction requirement. New claims 67-78 are herein added.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesy extended to the inventor, David Perreault, and Applicant's representative, Paul Durkee (the undersigned) on August 26, 2004. During the interview the claim rejections in the Office Action mailed on July 6th including the Mullersman, Fujimura, Uchida, and Hamill references were discussed. It was agreed that if Applicant amends the claims to clarify the invention the rejections based upon the cited references should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that claims 1-10, 14-33, 35-43, and 45-61, are in condition for allowance for which a notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Consideration for new claims 67-78 is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigning attorney if there are any questions regarding this Amendment or this application.

Applicant does not acquiesce to any assertion made by the Examiner not specifically addressed herein. In addition, the amendments contained herein are made to expedite allowance of the case and Applicant reserves the right to pursue the originally-filed and other claims in continuation applications without prejudice.

Appl. No. 10/082,616
Reply to Office Action of July 6, 2004

Docket No. MIT-106PUS

The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 500845.

Respectfully submitted,

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DALY, CROWLEY & MOFFORD, LLP

By: Paul Durkee

Paul D. Durkee
Reg. No. 41,003
Attorney for Applicant(s)
275 Turnpike Street, Suite 101
Canton, MA 02021-2354
Tel.: (781) 401-9988, ext. 21
Fax: (781) 401-9966
pdd@dc-m.com

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